

2015 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2015 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2014 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2015 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2015 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fish" and then "Where to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2015 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2015 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



New and Expanding Fisheries in 2015

- Rainbow trout will now be stocked in Maysville-Mason County Lake (Mason County), the 6-acre lake at the Kentucky River WMA Boone Tract (Henry County) and West Hickman Creek where it runs through Veteran's Park (Fayette County). See the Trout Waters section of the 2015 Fishing and Boating Guide for specific stocking months.
- The new lower section of Hatchery Creek at the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is scheduled to be completed in 2015. Follow its progress on the KDFWR website (fw.ky.gov).
- Muskie were stocked into Dewey Lake in 2014. While the lake is not slated to receive annual stockings of this species, KDFWR will add muskellunge when excess fish are available from state hatcheries. Muskie stocked in 2014 should reach the 30-inch harvestable size in 2017.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located at the end of this publication. For those looking for a quick answer to where the best fishing can be found for each species, the Cheat Sheet is your guide. The Cheat Sheet lets you know which lakes are forecasted to provide good to excellent fishing for each of your favorite fish species. Just look up the species you are interested in and then see which lakes have a check mark next to them. These are the lakes which will provide the best chance for a memorable fishing trip for that species. The Cheat Sheet is located on two pages, so if you don't see the species you are interested in on the first page; make sure to check the following page.

New Up-and-Comers

Several lakes and rivers have shown improvements in their fisheries in the last year. You might try and get in on the action at the following water bodies:

- Largemouth bass at Grayson Lake (Carter and Elliott counties).
- Bluegill at Corinth Lake (Grant County), Cumberland Lake (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties), Martin's Fork Lake (Harlan County) and Metcalfe County Lake (Metcalfe County).
- Crappie at Buckhorn Lake (Leslie and Perry counties), Cave Run Lake (Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties), Cumberland Lake (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties) and Fishtrap Lake (Pike County).
- Rainbow trout on the Cumberland Tailwater (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton and Monroe counties).
- Brown trout on the Cumberland Tailwater (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton and Monroe counties).
- Redear sunfish at Marion County Lake (Marion County).
- Hybrid striped bass at Grayson Lake (Carter and Elliott counties).
- Rock bass on the main stem and north fork of Elkhorn Creek (Franklin and Scott counties).
- Walleye at Cumberland Lake (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties).

Late Winter/Early Spring Fishing Frenzy

As warm winds begin to flow over Kentucky, put your new fishing license to good use by trying a few early spring fishing hot spots. In March, fish activity begins in the smaller bodies of water such as farm ponds and smaller public lakes as water temperatures reach the 50's. These smaller, shallower bodies of water warm quicker than reservoirs in spring. Late winter and early spring may be the best time of the year to catch big fish.

Trophy largemouth bass, especially females, are at their heaviest weight of the entire year during late winter and early spring. Female bass feed heavily during this time to provide fuel for the upcoming spawn. Farm ponds and public lakes are prime spots for early spring largemouth bass fishing before the larger bodies of water warm enough for bass to feed.

A few of the best lakes for catching trophy bass in spring are Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake and Lake Malone in western Kentucky along with Cedar Creek, Kincaid and Guist Creek lakes in central Kentucky. Greenbo Lake in northeast Kentucky and Wood Creek Lake in southeast Kentucky both produced multiple state record largemouth bass in the past. Woods Creek Lake is the home of the current 13-pound, 10.4 ounce state record. Barren River Lake in west-central Kentucky, Lake Beshear and Lake Mauzy in west Kentucky along with Lake Herrington and Green River lakes in central Kentucky also offer excellent early spring bass fishing. Dewey Lake, Fishtrap and Fishpond lakes give east Kentucky anglers a great shot for an early spring trophy largemouth bass.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River, Kentucky, Cumberland, Laurel River, Dale Hollow and Fishtrap lakes for a good chance at catching the smallmouth bass of a lifetime in late winter and early spring. Streams also provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass in early spring throughout central and eastern Kentucky. Adult fish migrate from their winter habitat in deep, slow moving holes in the lower sections of streams to spawning areas in smaller tributary streams. Elkhorn Creek, South Fork, Licking River and several upper Kentucky, Green and Barren River tributaries offer the best spring fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass.

Slab crappie are ready to be caught, beginning in late winter, at many reservoirs in central and western Kentucky. Catches of crappie over 12 inches are not uncommon at Barkley and Kentucky lakes during this time. Black crappie move into shallow water well before the spawning season in early March, so start early for these fish. Other good bets for crappie include Herrington, Cumberland, Dewey, Rough, Nolin, Barren and Buckhorn lakes as well as Ohio River embayments.

Excellent white bass fishing can be found during the early spring in the upper sections of reservoirs such as Barkley, Cave Run, Nolin River and Herrington lakes. The Kentucky, Green and Ohio rivers offer excellent spring white bass fishing.

During late winter, sauger and walleye fishing peaks in tailwaters below dams on the Ohio, lower Kentucky, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Lake Cumberland, Laurel River and Carr Creek lakes possess excellent walleye fisheries.

If you are interested in muskellunge, they move in spring to shallow shoreline structure and headwater areas in search of warmer water at Cave Run, Green, and Buckhorn lakes. Remember, a 36-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit is in effect for muskellunge at these three reservoirs.

Do not forget to take advantage of trout waters such as seasonal catch-and-release trout streams, lakes stocked with trout in winter months, Fishing in Neighborhood (FINs) lakes stocked with trout and the Cumberland River tailwater below Lake Cumberland in late winter and early spring. Trout bite willingly in cold water. Expect fishing to improve on the Cumberland Tailwater now that the construction on Wolf Creek Dam is completed.

Try these late winter and early spring hot spots. Not only will they cure your cabin fever, but you might catch the fish of your lifetime.

2015 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2014 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2015.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER	45,600 acres	(Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)
Blue catfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 10-20 pounders with the occasional 50+ pounder. Best fishing is during late spring and summer along deep river channels. Look for good flow in the lake for best fishing conditions. Blue catfish can be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Bluegill	Excellent	Good numbers of fish up to 9 inches; the best fishing comes in May on sand or gravel spawning beds. Crickets and worms fished under a cork during the spawn is a great option. Fish move deeper as the water warms in summer.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Best fishing is during May along rocky banks and during summer along the main river channel and adjacent flats. Try stink-bait in shallow water in the spring. Channel catfish can also be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Crappie	Good	Barkley Lake is a little tougher fishing for crappie than Kentucky Lake, though the numbers of crappie are good. Many fishermen are changing tactics, casting or trolling light jigs and roadrunners year-round.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Shallow water fishing for spawning bass can be amazing in the spring around button ball bushes with floating baits, buzzbaits, spinnerbaits, and plastic creature baits. During post spawn most bass move to drop-offs in the main lake and mouths of the bays. Try fishing Carolina rigs, jigs, and crankbaits in deeper water when there is good current moving through the reservoir. During summertime, fishing shallow near structure can also be effective, particularly at dawn or dusk. In fall and winter, bass move into the bays to feed on shad.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 8-10 inch fish with trophies up to 12 inches. Prime fishing occurs in late April and throughout May as fish are spawning. Fish can be found in areas with gravel substrate and vegetation. Redear generally spawn a bit deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Poor	Population consists of low numbers of harvestable-size (>14.0 inch) fish. Many fish are caught trolling deep diving crankbaits near secondary channel breaks during the early summer. Sauger can also be caught while fishing for catfish along the main river channel. Fair fishing is found in the tailwaters.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass make up a small portion of the total bass population but are common in certain habitats. Fishing is best around rocky shorelines near deep water, main lake points, and the Canal during late winter and early spring with suspending jerk baits.
Striped bass	Good	The tailwater fishing is best for consistent catches, but the lake produces good catches as well. Fish deep main channel ledges near bridges and other places with current. For the best luck try trolling crankbaits or fishing vertically with large jigs. Good trophy potential.
White bass	Good	Fishing success has been decent the last few years. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface during summer and fall. If you can't find them working the surface, fish deeper along ledges on the main lake with a spoon or inline spinner. Trolling the ledges with lighter colored crankbaits can be a lot of fun, especially for children and inexperienced anglers. Similar to striped bass, good fishing occurs in the tailwaters.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER (from Barren River Lake dam to Green River confluence)		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Barren River Lake tailwater area hybrid fishing is best, especially during or following periods of heavy lake discharges. Good fishing also below instream dams at Bowling Green and Greencastle.
Muskellunge	Good	Target mouth of feeder creeks and around wood structure or other current breaks from dam to Green River confluence. Stocked annually.
Smallmouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 12-inch fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Fishing best from dam to mouth of Drakes Creek. Target areas above and below riffle/shoal areas and rocky banks in heads of pools.
Spotted bass	Fair	Found throughout Barren River. Fish slower moving pools with rocky banks and logs. Fish spinnerbaits and crankbaits in the spring and early summer. Use buzzbaits during summer.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	Fishing best below instream dams (Barren River Lake, Greencastle and Bowling Green) especially during December – March. Good-sized walleye (15-25 inch) available. Sauger have been stocked since 2010.
BARREN RIVER (above lake upstream from Long Creek confluence)		
Bass	Fair	Largemouth, spotted and smallmouth all found here in fair numbers and good sizes. Largemouth best below 100 bridge; smallmouth best above Coruth or Dunns ford/Celsor Road.
Channel catfish	Good	Best action during early onset of rising water conditions anytime of year, but especially during summer months.
White bass, hybrids and yellow bass	Fair	Spawning runs still present in late March – mid-April. Use small crankbaits and inline spinners for whites and yellows. Use bigger swimbaits and spinners for hybrids.
Walleye	Fair/Good	Males hanging near riffle areas starting mid-February until early April. Fish deepest section of pools rest of the year with bottom bumping spinners, blade baits or curly tailed grubs.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER LAKE 10,000 acres (Allen and Barren counties)		
Summertime (mid- June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 15-18 feet.		
Bluegill (sunfish)	Good	Good numbers of 6–8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back of coves during the spring and fall. Fish deeper in the summer near cove mouths and along bluff walls near laydowns or standing timber.
Catfish	Excellent	Good populations of channel and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Fishing best near creek channels and at night. Blue catfish have been stocked annually since 2010, with some of these already over 25 inches. Fish for blues with live or cut bait in open water areas with jugs or rod and reel.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger crappie (10-11 inches; black and white) available; however, for best numbers of whites fish winter and early spring. Crappie mix remains about 60-40 ratio (black crappie to white crappie). Good numbers of both are available due to good year classes/spawns of 2010, 2011 and 2013. Target shallower water to find black crappie in spring and early summer. Summer and winter fishing is best around deeper structure such as attractor/brush sites or near creek channel.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Overall numbers are good with large fish (20-inch plus) available. Spring fishing best in headwater areas with spinners, crankbaits, and curly tailed jigs. Target main lake (around islands in mid-/lower lake) early in the morning and at dusk in the summer and fall with crankbaits and spoons as schools appear throughout the lake. 200,000 stocked annually since 2000. Higher numbers of 18-20 inch fish from elevated stocking rate in 2013.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers overall and good numbers of 15-inch plus and 20-inch plus fish.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density population overall; however, quality/trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Target lower 1/3 of the lake near the dam, fishing rock outcroppings and rocky transition areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Lower density population overall; however, quality fish (15-inch plus) available. Bridge pylons and bluff walls with rock slides good places to target spots.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain low. Best opportunity is during spawning run in late March to mid April with in-line spinners, small jigs and small crankbaits in Barren River, Peter, Skaggs and Beaver Creeks above the lake.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Abundant and willing to bite. Most fish are 7-9 inches in length. Bite readily on small jigs, spinners and minnows. Bridge pylons excellent areas to target for summertime bite.
BEAVER LAKE 158 acres (Anderson County)		
Bluegill	Good	High numbers of 6-8 inch fish; ≥ 8.0 fish present.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; fish over 15 inches common. Fall fishing good in shallows in coves.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Small population; good numbers of fish between 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass up to 15 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	7-9 inch fish available around vegetation; good numbers of 10-11 inch fish possible. Overall, numbers are down due to the significant reduction of aquatic vegetation in lake.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BENJY KINMAN LAKE	88 acres	(Henry County)
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 5-7 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Channel catfish present.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 8-10-inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass present; excellent potential for quality-size fish over 20 inches. Trophy-size fish (≥ 23 inch) are present. Note: largemouth bass are catch and release only.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish; key in on few areas where aquatic vegetation is present.
BESHEAR LAKE	760 acres	(Caldwell and Christian counties)
Blue catfish	Fair	Blue catfish are being stocked every other year. Their population is doing fair, with good growth. Some already measure over 25 inches and weigh over 5 pounds.
Bluegill	Fair	Numerous small fish with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Boat fishing is the most popular method, but some bank fishing opportunities are also available.
Channel catfish	Excellent	High numbers of 10-15 inch channel catfish in the population. Channel catfish are stocked every other year at 10-12 inches. This is an underutilized fishery. Most anglers fishing for catfish use jug lines or noodles. Catfish are one of the reasons people go to Lake Beshear to fish.
Crappie	Fair	Numerous fish in the 6-8 inch range, with an occasional 10 inch. Best fishing during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure. The population is considered stunted; therefore it is ok to harvest the small crappie.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	One of the main reason anglers fish Lake Beshear. The bass population is dominated by 12-18 inch fish. Best fishing during spring when fish move to shallow water, along the water willow and lily pads. Try fishing the edges of these weeds with a pearl colored fluke using a short jerk retrieve, or use a white spinnerbait. Worms, creature baits, and other soft plastics can also be effective during the spawn. In late afternoon, or on cloudy days, try top water baits. During summertime, as temperatures heat up, bass often suspend near deep water ledges. These fish can be caught on dropshot rigs or long lined crankbaits and jerkbaits.
BOLTZ LAKE	92 acres	(Grant County)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year. Good numbers of channel catfish over 12 inch size limit present. Low numbers of blue catfish; last stocking of catchable-size blue catfish in 2013. 25-inch plus blue catfish possible.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; majority of fish between 6-8 inches; larger fish possible due to recent removal of smaller crappie in spring of 2012.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Decent numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); some potential for bass ≥ 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish available around vegetation.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BRIGGS LAKE	18 acres	(Logan County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		

Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of 7-inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Crappie	Fair	Large fish present; fish laydown trees, stakebeds and brushpiles in late winter and early spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Good numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Larger fish very shallow in early spring; then move to thermocline depth.

BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER	1,250 acres	(Leslie and Perry counties)
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution and very good numbers; larger fish 7-8 inches. Upper lake areas and heads of coves hold best numbers during summer pool. Shallow mudflats in main lake areas can hold large congregations of fish on spawning beds.
Catfish	Excellent	High numbers of channel catfish with good recruitment of young fish each year. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds. Tailwater provides additional good fishery.
Crappie	Good	Very good numbers of keeper fish in 2014. This will continue in 2015 with most larger fish from 10-13 inches. July and August can provide some very good fishing over shallow mud flats adjacent to main lake channel. Try trolling bait tipped jigs or small crankbaits over the flats. Also, late September/early October during drawdown to winter pool can be very good in the same locations.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth rates of young bass and fair numbers of 15-17 inch fish with good numbers for fish greater than 20 inches. Spring fishing success can be very good if high water events do not occur.
Muskellunge	Fair	Approximately 15% of fish are over 36 inches and 23% over 30 inches. Overall numbers are good, but expect to contend with many smaller fish. Fishing can be difficult for periods following flood events. January-March fish will congregate in the lower lake and near the dam. Good fishing at Trace Branch area in July and August. September will find many large fish on edges of shallow water weedbeds in backs of coves. Bank fishing opportunities are good at the tailwater in March and October.
White bass	Poor	Some successful recruitment of young fish in 2013. There are 3 different year classes present, but all are in low numbers. Fish range primarily from 8-15 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BULLOCK PEN LAKE 134 acres (Grant County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; good numbers over the 12 inch size limit and potential for larger fish (≥ 20 inches). Catchable-size blue catfish stocked each year; 25-inch plus fish possible. Flathead catfish present.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant population of small-sized fish (mostly 6-7 inches); few larger fish are present.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit). Excellent potential for quality-size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers.
Saugeye	Fair	Second year of stocking was completed in 2014; saugeye up to the 15 inches are present. A few saugeye should grow to harvestable size in 2015 (15-inch size limit).
White bass	Poor/Fair	Small population of large fish in the 14-17 inch range.
CARPENTER LAKE 68 acres (Daviess County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of 6-7 inch bluegill, but few over 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Excellent growth rates produce good numbers of 15-20 inch and larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Several smaller (8-11 inch) fish in the population, but the number of 12-20 inch fish is decent and holding steady.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Most 7-8 inches with a few 9-11 inch fish.
CARR CREEK LAKE 710 acres (Knott County)		
Hydrilla was documented in Carr Creek Lake for the first time in 2008. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species within the lake and between lakes by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Bluegill	Poor	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer. Larger fish will hold around weedbed edges in summer. Fishing pier near ramp at marina holds fish in submerged brush when lake is at summer pool.
Crappie	Fair	This fishery continues to improve in numbers and may actually prove to be "Good" in 2015. Larger black crappie from 9-12 inches and white crappie from 10-16 inches. Deadfall trees and submerged brush piles will congregate large numbers of fish during most of the year. Research and stocking program with white crappie is ongoing.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of large fish over 20 inches. March-early April anglers have very good fishing success for big fish. Usually poor recruitment of small fish and stocking of fingerlings occurs each year.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low numbers but fish sampled up to 20 inches.
Spotted bass	Excellent	Best numbers are concentrated in lower and mid lake; a few large fish up to 18 inches; excellent numbers through 16 inches.
Walleye	Excellent	Very high numbers of fish from 15-26 inches; a few fish up to 28 inches. March through May are good months to try during day or night. Standing timber will hold suspended fish in summer as well as deeper open water areas with schools of alewife that walleye will suspend beneath.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CAVE RUN LAKE	8,270 acres	(Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties)
Baring high water conditions in the spring, beds of aquatic vegetation should have similar densities as previous years. Historically, Zilpo flats are covered with weed growth and fishing has been good in these areas for largemouth bass and muskellunge. Check out KDFWR website (fw.ky.gov) for information on new habitat structures placed in the lake.		
Bluegill	Good	Widespread within the lake, most 7 inches long or less, but it is not unusual to catch a few larger fish. Bluegill can be found in the back of coves or other quickly warming shallow water areas in the spring and on department placed or natural brush piles later in the year.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to two feet long along with a few larger sizes. Many are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early May-June where they seek cover in rock piles and submerged logs to spawn. Later they tend to be found in deeper water. Although not as plentiful, some trophy sized flathead catfish are found in the lake.
Crappie	Excellent	In recent years anglers have been experiencing outstanding crappie fishing. The lake continues to hold nice numbers of 2 to 3 year old fish and they should continue to push through the population quickly, maintaining the good numbers of larger fish for a few more years. During spring months look for crappie in the shallows near shore; in the summer around department placed and natural brush piles; and in the fall in the riverine portions of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	The North Fork and Licking River portions of the lake (upper reaches) generally hold the larger fish. In these areas try fishing the rocky banks warmed by the morning sun in April and May. For the rest of the lake, fish the edges and pockets of the weed beds, fallen trees and woody structure within embayments. Recent electrofishing catch rates for fish over 15 and 20 inches have been the highest ever recorded on Cave Run Lake. This should continue into 2015 and should provide excellent fishing for larger fish. Note: 13-16 inch protective slot limit.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Excellent angling continues with this fishery. Trophy fish can be found primarily in the spawning month of April in the backs of the large coves or in the fall months of September and October in association with gentle sloping gravely banks or near channel drop offs. Note: 36 inch minimum size, one fish creel limit.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	While still uncommon, smallmouth have been picking up in recent years. They are found primarily off rocky points or shoreline in the lower lake. Across from the Twin Knobs beach, the slipped bank area at the back of Scott's Creek and along the 801 Rocks can produce a few fish. Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous within the middle and lower main lake shoreline; become less common within the upper reaches of the lake. Most less than 13 inches long.
White bass	Poor	Numbers have taken a hit due to the 2013 die off. Smaller fish are present in the lake, but in low numbers. The white bass should rebound in 2015, but catches will be low. Note: No more than 5 white bass in the daily creel limit may be greater than 15-inches long.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CEDAR CREEK LAKE	784 acres	(Lincoln County)
Bluegill	Good	Abundant numbers, although most are less than 7 inches. Bank anglers can choose from several designated fishing access areas for family fishing.
Channel catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 12-18 inch fish with a few over 20 inches.
Crappie	Good	The crappie population continues to improve as larger crappie (>10 inches) are becoming more common. Try jigs tipped with minnows around submerged brush, particularly in late fall.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Wide range of sizes available for anglers, with a high density of 16-20 inch fish. Cedar Creek Lake remains a great place to catch a large bass. Note: a trophy regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish creel limit, is in effect on this lake.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked in late fall and early spring to provide cool weather fishery.
Redear sunfish	Good	Less numerous than bluegills but good numbers of 7-10 inch fish available. Try mealworms around vegetation for best fishing.
CHENOA LAKE	35 acres	(Bell County)
Bluegill	Fair	Fairly numerous 6-7 inchers although the blanket of vegetation in upper end of lake limits their accessibility.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked annually. Good bank fishing along north side of lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good range of sizes with a few over 17 inches. Try jerking surface plugs through mats of watershield pads in spring and summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches. Meal worms and wax worms drifted under a bobber works well around brush and aquatic vegetation.
CLEAR CREEK LAKE	40 acres	(Bath County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6 to 7 inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair population with a few fish over 20 inches in the samples. Anglers should focus around the dam and the standing timber at the back of the lake.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-8 inch fish. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
CORINTH LAKE	96 acres	(Grant County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish; ≥ 8 inch fish present. Numbers of quality-size fish continue to increase from shad eradication.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Low numbers; most fish between 8 to 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); excellent potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Increasing numbers of fish greater than 7 inches; numbers of quality-size fish continue to increase from shad eradication.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE 50,250 acres (Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties)		
The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are now defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.		
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are fairly abundant and some are excellent size (>8 inches). Try crickets in coves and cuts for good early summer action or spinner rigs with half nightcrawlers or redworms.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Excellent population of 2-5 pound channels with some larger fish in the mix. Nightcrawlers still fished or slowly trolled on main lake flats and cuts during late summer or fall should pick up some quality fish.
Crappie	Excellent	Best size range in many years, with large crappie (12-14 inches) fairly abundant. The flooded willows and sycamore trees should benefit the crappie population for the foreseeable future. Try jigs or minnows in headwaters of the lake (near mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle Rivers) in early spring for some excellent fishing. Fall fishing should also be good in major tributaries.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of 14-17 inch fish; some larger fish are available. Creek arms in upper lake are slightly better for largemouth than lower lake arms.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 14-18 inch fish present with moderate density of 18-inch plus fish. Try jigs or float-n-fly techniques for good winter fishing.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of 12-15 inch fish; some larger ones are available. Found throughout lake, although more common in lower half.
Striped bass	Good	The striped bass population continues to improve and anglers can expect to catch slightly larger fish in 2015. The 2009 year class (mostly 26-30 inch fish) should provide the bulk of the striped bass fishery but some larger fish are in the population. The boosted stockings in 2013 appear to have created a good year class, which bodes well for future years. The 22-inch size limit remains in effect, and anglers should have no trouble catching their limit.
Walleye	Good	Walleye numbers have rebounded nicely from the 2010 lows and size range has modestly improved. Anglers should find plenty of fish from 17-22 inches, but comparatively few larger fish. Best fishing in spring is at night on surface baits. Night crawler rigs and deep diving crank baits trolled 20-35 feet deep along main lake shoreline work well during summer and fall.
White bass	Fair	Population level remains low but size is good. Upper half of lake is best for numbers. For best success, try headwater areas in early spring.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties)		
Brook trout	Fair	Annual stockings continue in the tailwater. Most fish range from 10-14 inches, but some larger fish are present. The state record remains vulnerable in 2015 as brooks grow into the larger size ranges. Brook trout are aggressive feeders that bite readily on a variety of baits.
Brown trout	Good	Anglers can expect good numbers of browns up to 15 inches, and fair numbers of larger fish. The abundance of keeper fish (>20 inches) remains low but should improve in the coming years.
Rainbow trout	Good	Rainbow trout abundance is still lower than peak years, but adequate numbers of stocked fish should be available to anglers. Some of the larger fish (14-17 inches) stocked in 2013 have moved into the 18-20 inch range, but we are still a few years away from good numbers of fish in the slot (15-20 inches).
Sauger	Fair	Population tends to fluctuate yearly. Try near dam in late winter and early spring with small jigs and grubs. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs.
Striped bass	Fair/Good	Fairly low density population but good size (20 lbs +). The tailwater is the best bet for a trophy striper in the state. Fishing best from Burkesville area downstream during summer months using live bait or trolling shad colored crankbaits or swim baits.. Fish can be found throughout the tailwater during other seasons.
Walleye	Fair	Moderate numbers but good size (2-5 lb). Fish dam area in late February – mid March. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs.
White bass	Good	Best in lower sections near creek mouths during late winter – early spring.
DALE HOLLOW LAKE 4,300 acres in Kentucky (Clinton and Cumberland counties)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of larger (16-19 inch) fish.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Consistent fishery continues to produce impressive numbers of fish over 3 lbs. Standard fare of jigs and soft plastics work well as do float-n-fly techniques in cold water months.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of quality sized fish (12-15 inches).

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
DEWEY LAKE 1,100 acres (Floyd County)		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Dewey Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of these damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Blue catfish	Good	Number of larger fish caught by anglers was down slightly in 2014. However, looking for numbers to increase in 2015 with stronger year classes moving up. Larger fish are approximately 35 inches.
Bluegill	Fair	Stable population with good growth. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake during winter months. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Lots of good bank fishing access.
Crappie	Excellent	Crappie have shown good growth in recent years. Black and white crappie are present with larger white crappie to 15 inches and black crappie to 11 inches.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution; a few large fish from 20-40 pounds caught each year. Popular with ticklers/noodlers in June; try fishing shallow in September and October.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Bass continue to show good size distribution and improving numbers greater than 15 inches. March is good time to go after largest fish in shallow murky water.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fish are present through 12 inches. Some areas such as the rip-rap rock face of dam hold good fish. Increasing population of zebra mussels will improve this fishery. Try fishing bait near the bottom around weedy areas or brush. If catching bluegill, then go deeper or further off shoreline to get into redear sunfish.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain stable. John's Creek will congregate fish in March for spawning (look for Redbud trees in bloom). Later in September look for good numbers of fish in shallow water areas in head of coves off main lake after shad.
DIX RIVER – below Herrington Lake (Garrard and Mercer counties)		
Brown Trout	Fair/Good	A few holdover fish are expected from 2014 stockings due to improved fall water conditions. One stocking (usually June) per year.
Rainbow Trout	Fair/Good	A few holdover fish are expected from 2014 stockings due to improved fall water conditions. Stocked on a monthly basis, 9 out of 12 months. Use of artificial lures or flies only from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for 2 miles.
ELKHORN CREEK – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		
Catfish	Good	Large channel catfish possible in bigger pools; good numbers of “keeper” channel catfish, especially in the lower section of the main stem. Flathead catfish are present.
Largemouth bass	Good	Quality fishing found in slow moving pools in the North Fork. Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.
Rock Bass	Good	Many fish between 7-9 inches in main stem and in the lower North Fork section.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of smallmouth bass, especially on the main stem within the slot. Also good numbers of fish greater than 16 inches. Note: fish from 12-16 inches (slot limit) are protected in the main stem Elkhorn Creek.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ELMER DAVIS LAKE	149 acres	(Owen County)
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches; many found around beaver lodges and boat docks. Bluegill population is being negatively affected by presence of gizzard shad in the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size fish stocked last year; fish over 15 inches possible.
Crappie	Fair	Most around 9-11 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Plenty of bass under 12-15 inch protected slot limit with good numbers in the slot. Good numbers of bass greater than 15 inches. Weed beds are back. Trophy-size bass are possible.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches near weed beds or on spawning beds in upper parts of embayments. "Shellcrackers" greater than 10 inches are present. Population is being negatively affected by shad.
Warmouth	Fair	Nice-size fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as "redeye" or "rockbass".

FAGAN BRANCH LAKE	140 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) temperature and oxygen levels for trout in the 20-30 foot range. This zone decreases as the summer progresses. Lake is extremely clear year-round.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 7-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Best fishing early and late and at night under floating lights using minnows. Fair numbers of fish, but not many larger fish (10-inch plus).
Largemouth bass	Fair	Stable population but slower growing. Fair numbers of 12-inch plus fish available.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May–October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20-30 foot ranges during the summer. Fish available throughout the lake during the winter. Stocked semi-annually (November and February) since 2010.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Above average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) present. Fish edges of deep weed beds (15-20 feet) during summer.

FISHPOND LAKE	32 acres	(Letcher County)
Bluegill	Fair	Population is doing well with fish common up to 10 inches; largest individuals will be deeper than young fish; try night fishing for large fish under overhanging shoreline brush and trees. Warmouth are another panfish that are available at Fishpond and reach large sizes there.
Channel catfish	Fair	Lake received stocking in 2014; fish up to 21 inches present; night fishing may produce best results.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Very good size distribution of fish up to 24 inches and 10 pounds; water is very clear and fish are often difficult to catch during daylight hours. When rainbow trout are stocked, they are heavily targeted by bass.
Rainbow trout	Good	Fishing is best around the months when fish are stocked; stockings are in January, April, May, and October. Due to clear water, most fishing is done at night. However, when a new stocking has just occurred, the daytime fishing can also be good. A few trout will hold through the summer in most years providing fish up to 16 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
FISHTRAP LAKE and TAILWATER 1,131 acres (Pike County)		
Zebra mussels are present at Fishtrap Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Blue catfish	Fair	Blues were stocked in 2011 and 2013. Larger fish are approximately 30 inches. Fishery should continue to improve with additional stockings and increasing population of zebra mussels and the large gizzard shad population.
Bluegill	Excellent	Some large bluegill available up to 11-12 inches; May and June have been popular months for angling.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution and numbers found throughout the lake and into Levisa Fork.
Crappie	Excellent	Very good catches of larger fish in 2014 is expected again in 2015. Distribution and numbers are good through 13 inches with some larger fish available to 15-16 inches.
Flathead catfish	Excellent	Numerous large fish with good numbers found in the lake and into Levisa Fork. Numerous rocky ledges and banks around the lake provide excellent noodling opportunities when fish are spawning.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of hybrids in the lower lake in late summer and at winter pool; fair spawning run in headwaters in April. Night fishing has become popular; look for fish in the jumps from May-July; good distribution of fish through 10 pounds. This is an underutilized fishery.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers with excellent size distribution and good growth; lake is prone to rapid changes in water level effecting fish activity for periods. Ratio of keeper size bass is one of the best in eastern Kentucky.
Redear sunfish	Fair	This fishery was initiated with stockings from 2010-2013. Larger fish are approximately 10 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Make up approximately 15% of black bass; good fishing primarily in the headwaters of the lake up into the Levisa Fork River and in the lower portion of the lake from Grapevine to dam. Large individuals up to 22 inches. Excellent stream fishing in the Levisa Fork upstream of the lake.
Floyds Fork Creek 27 miles (Jefferson County)		
Largemouth bass	Poor	Small percentage of all three black bass species. Most under 10 inches. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 1 fish daily creel limit.
Rainbow trout	Good	Fish stocked 3 times per year, mainly 8-12 inches. Seasonal catch and release regulations starting in fall 2015.
Rock bass	Fair	Most fish between 6-8 inches. More numerous in the middle section of the stream.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of smallmouth bass 9-12 inches. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 1 fish daily creel limit.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GRAYSON LAKE	1,512 acres	(Carter and Elliott counties)
Bluegill	Good	Numerous, up to 7 inches long; widespread throughout the lake as well as other kinds of panfish. Try fishing 5-6 feet deep in May and June.
Catfish	Good	Widespread throughout the lake. Fair numbers of channel and flathead catfish up to 20 inches long, some trophy-sized flathead catfish. Try fishing the middle and upper sections of the lake in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	Population samples collected in 2014 were far better than previous years. For this fish it is important to find cover or fish deep near channel edges around standing timber.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Several fish have been sampled in the 15 to 25 inch range as well as a few over 25 inches. Fish are congregated in the Bruin area in the late fall. This is a fishery that if it continues at its current pace should produce some excellent angling in the near future.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers of fish over 15.0 inches, but most still less than the minimum size limit. Most prevalent of all black bass species in the lake. Best population exists in the Bruin areas. High water helps to congregate these fish within the shoreline vegetation in the spring and the fall months; can produce feeding frenzies and high catch rates within the open water areas of Deer Creek and Bruin. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Fair	Stable population. Most fish are found in lower 2/3 of lake.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Rarely seen while sampling. The best bet is the lower portion of the lake, specifically around the Deer Creek area near the dam. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
GREEN RIVER	(dam at Rochester down to mouth at Spottsville)	
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Trophy-size blue and flathead catfish available. Good bets are tailwaters below locks and dams, in deeper holes, and around logs, brush, or rocks.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Fish tributary mouths, below locks and dams, and brush along bank in spring and fall with live minnows.
Striped and hybrid striped bass	Good	Stripers and hybrids congregate below dams late spring through early fall. Cast top water plugs or lead head jigs with plastic bodies into boils below dams. Shad imitation swim baits and bucktail jigs also produce well.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish mouth of tributary streams in spring and below dams mid-spring through fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish bank access area and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late March through April.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake Dam)		
Muskellunge	Good	Fishing best at feeder creek mouths and around woody debris or other current breaks. Fishing below instream dams also good bets. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Rock bass	Excellent	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish present from dam to Munfordville.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers overall with larger fish (15-inch plus) available. Fishing best from Green River Lake dam to Mammoth Cave.
Walleye/sauger	Fair	Fishing best below Green River Lake dam area and instream dams from early winter through spring.

GREEN RIVER LAKE 8,210 acres (Taylor and Adair counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 18-22 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large population with occasional 7-8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back ends of coves during spring and deep-water brush, standing timber and structure during summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Good/Excellent	All sizes available. Hook and line fishing best at night or when water levels are on the rise and muddy. Jug fishing good mid-summer to fall.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of quality-sized fish (15-inch plus) and better than average numbers of 18-inch plus fish.
Muskellunge	Good	Legal-sized fish (36-inch) and trophy fish (40-inch plus) numbers fair. Fall, late winter and spring excellent time to catch trophy fish. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density overall; however, can expect a slight upturn in numbers from good spawn of 2010. Expect better than average numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Fish in mid-lower sections of Robinson Creek and Green River arms for best numbers and chance for 20-inch plus fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish. 15-inch plus spots available.
Walleye	Fair	Overall numbers are fair as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus). Fish dam area and headwater areas of Robinson Creek and Green River arms in late February through mid to late March. Target standing timber coves, main lake stump beds, humps, and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of harvestable-size fish (9-inch plus). Expect to weed through lots of sub-legal fish to find keeper fish. Keep an eye out for the occasional black crappie.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREENBO LAKE	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park)
Bluegill	Fair	Increases in the growth of shoreline and aquatic vegetation will continue to help this population. Fish deep water structure in the spring and beaver lodges in the summer. Note: Bluegill and other sunfish -15 fish daily creel limit.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 2-3 pound fish observed during fall sampling. Note: Limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 15 inches long and chances for trophy-sized fish over 20 inches. Due to water clarity, anglers may have to fish deeper or at night. Fish around downed trees or brush piles.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Annually stocked population with some carry-over. Best fishing year round is in the dam area. During the spring and summer try fishing at night under lights. Winter fishing can also be good.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numbers low, however a few over 8 inches can be caught. After the spawn try fishing in deeper water. Note: See bluegill regulation.
GUIST CREEK LAKE	317 acres	(Shelby County)
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant; most less than 6 inches. Easy to catch; good place to take a child fishing with live bait (redworms or crickets).
Catfish	Excellent	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; very good numbers of catfish with potential for trophies. Flatheads present in lake. Note: this lake is home to current white catfish state record.
Common carp	Good	Fish in coves or headwaters of the lake; fish with grain-based bait; 3 to 4 lb. fish common.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Most in the 7-10 inch range; larger fish are present.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Small population; good numbers of fish in the 16 to 22 inch range; potential for trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit. Excellent potential for quality size fish and bass over 20 inches. Excellent potential for a trophy fish.
Saugeye	Fair	Second year of stocking was completed in 2014; saugeye up to the 17 inches are present. Note: 15-inch size limit.
HERRINGTON LAKE	2,500 acres	(Mercer, Boyle and Garrard counties)
Bluegill	Good	Stable number of fish up to 8 inches can be found around cover in embayments and inlets of rock walls. Best April-June.
Common carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Good	Difficult to locate but many quality-size fish (9 inches or larger) available; best around brush or fallen trees in upper half of lake. Potential for large black crappie around debris in inlets in main lake.
Flathead catfish	Good	All sizes present; usually feed at night on sunfish and shad.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Overall numbers are down, but 2 to 5-lb fish are present; possible trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches; largest fish around shoreline cover in March and April; potential for trophy-sized fish. Best success in the upper half of lake. Good at night during the summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
HERRINGTON LAKE (continued)		
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Fair/Good	Numbers are down due to recent fish kill caused by disease, but fair numbers of fish in the 12-14 inch range; Trophy-size present.
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER 51,000 acres (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston and Trigg counties)		
Blue catfish	Excellent	<p>In the lake, best fishing is along the main river channel. Fish congregate along the ledges of the channel when there is current, and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift using live shiners or cut shad/skipjack in areas where creek channels meet the main river channel and along the main river channel near bends. Use a depth finder to determine if the fish are near the bottom or suspended, and then fish appropriately. Other baits to try include: chicken hearts, night crawlers, grass hoppers or catalpa worms.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. The best bait option is using fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters. Though most anglers fish from a boat, two fishing piers offer great bank fishing opportunities.</p>
Bluegill	Excellent	There are high numbers of 6-8 inch fish. The best fishing is in May, but bluegill can be caught year-round. Crickets and worms fished under a cork during the spawn are great baits. Later in summer try the stake beds or deep water (6-10 foot) brush piles. Catch bluegill in a feeding frenzy during the summer months where mayflies are hatching along the shoreline. Also try deeper rocky points during the summer with pieces of night crawlers.
Channel catfish	Excellent	<p>In the lake, the best fishing occurs during the late spring along main lake chunky rock shoreline and rip-rap shoreline around the dam and marinas. Good fishing is available along the river channel during summer and on flats along the secondary channels. Jug fishing in the embayments is often a good way to catch a mess of channel catfish.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. However, blue catfish outnumber the channel catfish in the tailwater area. Two piers offer good bank fishing access points, while fishing from a boat might be best downstream around woody debris, stumps and creek mouths.</p>
Crappie	Good	Anglers fishing deep are catching fair numbers of keeper-size white crappie. Anglers fishing shallow along rocky shoreline are catching fair numbers of black crappie. Try casting toward the shoreline with a curly tail jig. Crappie are vulnerable during late winter or early spring as they move toward shallow water areas for spawning. Fish are shallow in early to mid April around buttonball bushes, brush piles and stake beds. Crappie move to secondary channels, drops and flats near creek channels during the fall and winter, and are most frequently found near structure.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	<p>Several good year classes have resulted in quality fishing. During late winter and early spring, suspended fish can often be caught with jerkbaits and other shad imitations such as the Alabama rig. As spring progresses, fish move to wood structure along the shoreline. During the summer big fish are found along the main lake drops and secondary channels. Fishing the weed beds is good with some top water baits on cloudy, rainy days during the summer. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush, and chasing shad during late summer. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is good.</p> <p>There is some fine bass fishing in the tailwaters below KY Dam. Try fishing white spinnerbaits along the rip rap shoreline.</p>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Best fishing is in late April and early May. Redear like areas with gravel substrate. If there are yellow mustard flowers inundated by water in the backs of embayments during this time, this is a good place to find redear. Submerged pondweed clumps also hold redear sunfish. These fish primarily search the bottom for bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	<p>In the lake, there is a moderate population of harvestable-size (≥ 14 inch) fish. Best fishing is in fall and winter along secondary channels. Try trolling crankbaits.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there is a higher abundance of harvestable-size sauger. This is a good winter fishery. Boat fishing is ideal, though two new fishing piers offer good bank fishing opportunities.</p>
Smallmouth bass	Good	Best fishing along rocky shorelines and bluffs, creek channels at mouths of embayments, the canal main lake points, and main lake stumps. Night fishing during the summer months along gravel bars at the mouths of LBL embayments and rocky shoreline is good with dark colored spinnerbaits with Colorado style blades or crayfish color creature baits and jigs.
Spotted bass	Fair	Spotted bass are not normally targeted, but are caught while fishing for largemouth or smallmouth bass. Spotted bass migrate to the streams at the backs of embayments during the early spring. Gravel bars and points are prime areas to fish during the summer. Secondary points are good during the fall.
Striped bass	Fair	<p>Striped bass and its hybrid are being caught from the lake while fishing for white bass. Trolling with deep diver baits which imitate minnows is effective.</p> <p>Better fishing is available below Kentucky Dam in the tailwater. Fish congregate below the dam during periods of discharge through the generator section of dam. Live herring are the preferred bait. Fishing from a boat is best, but the best shoreline fishing would be off the two fishing piers near the dam. From the shoreline fish with 4-inch sassy shad type baits.</p>
White bass	Fair	<p>Fishing is good in the main lake during summer months when white bass are found schooling along secondary creek channels near the main river channel. Trolling can be very effective for locating these fish. Also look for jumps; when groups of white bass chase shad near the water's surface. In-line spinners and silver spoons work great for catching white bass. Look for main channel points and bends; also near the canal.</p> <p>Good numbers are also found in the Kentucky Dam tailwater area along with its cousin the yellow bass. When fishing from the bank or boat, try using small curly tail jigs or in-line spinner type baits.</p>
Yellow bass	Excellent	Lots of fish but they don't get very big. Their taste is much better than most anglers perceive. Casting the rocky shoreline with a curly tail jig or rooster tail works great. Large numbers are caught while casting the rocky shoreline in the spring for crappie.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY RIVER	255 miles (main stem)	
Bluegill*	Fair	Shoreline areas around woody debris out of the current hold some quality fish but in low numbers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Look for silt-free rocky habitat or below dams or palisades.
Common carp	Fair	Bottom fish with grain-based baits below dams.
Crappie*	Fair/Good	Currently good number of crappie in the Kentucky River; locate in backwater/creek-mouth areas with low current. Fish up to 12 inches or larger possible.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Large fish present around large boulders and log jams.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of 15 to 20-inch fish below dams. Numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Largemouth bass*	Fair	Locate in cover just below dams, in creek mouths, bank slides, or around timber. Numbers have been reduced due to recent flood events over the past year.
Muskellunge	Good	Best in spring around creek mouths, and in summer around timber and creek mouths. Stocked annually in upper river. More fish in upper half of river (pools 6-14).
Sauger	Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths, below dams around rock and sand bars.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of small to medium-size fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Fair	Present in low numbers due to past stockings and escapement from reservoirs in the headwaters; good-size fish possible below dams.
White bass	Good	Many 10-12 inch fish below dams.

*These are considered "standing water species" and do best in the river after prolonged periods of low-flow conditions. High water or flooding conditions for extended periods will reduce their numbers in the Kentucky River.

KINCAID LAKE	183 acres (Pendleton County)	
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size stocked each year; good potential for fish over 15 inches.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; most between 6-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; good numbers of fish over 15 inches; excellent potential for a trophy fish. Note: 12-inch size limit.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE CARNICO 114 acres (Nicholas County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Numbers are low. Concentrate efforts around the shallow spawning beds in the backs of the coves in spring and around structure or weed beds in the summer.
Catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of flathead and channel catfish can be found. Lake is stocked with channel catfish.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of bass present, a few over 15 and 20 inches. Anglers should concentrate summer time efforts around aquatic weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Numbers are low. See bluegill.
LAKE MALONE 767 acres (Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)		
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4-6 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually, good number of 14-16 inch fish with a few 20-inch plus available.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9-10 inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Stable population with large number of 15-20 inch fish. Many trophy fish available. Fish the shoreline waterwillow during spring and fall and at night during summer with plastic baits. Also try submerged trees and brush along deeper banks in spring and summer with spinner baits and jigs.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) available. Fish water willow edge along the shoreline in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer.
LAKE REBA 76 acres (Madison County)		
Grass carp have been stocked to help control the aquatic vegetation; remember removal of these fish is illegal.		
Bluegill	Good	Thinning out the vegetation is helping this lake's panfish population. Anglers should expect a slightly better year in 2015. Great lake to introduce a kid to fishing with the excellent bank access
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Sampling shows high numbers of these stocked size fish, and several over this size. Note: 12-inch minimum size limit; limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass over 15 and 20 inches present. Gibson Bay, upper end of the lake and away from the bank anglers are good during the summer. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers within the lake, most less than 7 inches long. See bluegill.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE WILGREEN	169 acres	(Madison County)
Blue catfish	Good	Stocked annually since 2009. Good catches regularly reported in the summer.
Bluegill	Good	Similar number as previous years and most fish are less than 6.0 inches. The population is healthy up to that point. Should give good fishing opportunities for 2015.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 15 and 20 inches. These sizes of fish are fat and healthy. All indicators are continuing to show an increase in this population. Should be another great year.
Redear sunfish	Good	Similar numbers to previous years and most fish are less than 7.0 inches. See bluegill.
LAUREL RIVER LAKE	5,830 acres	(Whitley and Laurel counties)
Bluegill	Good	Good summer fishery with fairly abundant 6-7 inch fish. Try crickets along rock walls in upper Laurel River Arm during summer.
Crappie	Fair	Modest numbers, but some large crappie are available to skilled anglers. Upper Laurel River arm near city dam is best area.
Largemouth bass	Good	The largemouth population has steadily gotten better over the last decade with improved numbers of 14-18 inch fish and some over 20 inches. Upper Laurel River arm is best area.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in January. Should be adequate numbers of 10-14 inch trout and a few larger fish. Try trolling small cranks or spoons during winter and early spring for good catches of stocked fish and the occasional larger fish.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good population of fish over 3 pounds. Persistent anglers have a chance of catching a fish over 6 pounds. Try casting jigs or swim baits in winter and early spring for best chance for a large fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Consistent population of mostly 12-14 inch fish with a few exceeding 15 inches. Best in the mid and lower sections of the lake. Look for schooling fish chasing shad on the surface in early fall.
Walleye	Good	Multiple year classes and good size range in population. Most of the larger fish (22-27 inch) are from strong 2009 year class. Try surface baits at night during spring, or troll deep diving crank baits or spinner rigs across points and islands in summer and fall.
White bass	Poor	Poor population overall but a few can be caught in the Laurel River Arm.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LINVILLE LAKE	361 acres	(Rockcastle County)
Bluegill	Good	Abundant 6-7 inch fish available. Try crickets, red worms, or small jigs for good spring and summer fishing. Good access for bank anglers.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked during odd-numbered years. Good numbers of 12-18 inch fish with some fish over 20 inches available. Good bank fishing available.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Stocked annually. Anglers can expect mostly 10-13 inch hybrids with a fair number of larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Improving size range with increasing numbers of fish over 15 inches.
Spotted bass	Good	Improving size, though few reach 13 inches.
White bass	Fair	Decent numbers of 11-14 inch whites.

MARION COUNTY LAKE	32 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 11 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers of 11-13 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Good	10-inch plus fish available. Larger fish up shallow in early/mid April for spawn then move out to thermocline depth.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish available; fish laydown trees in the upper end of the lake in spring and brushpiles in late winter and summer.

MARTINS FORK LAKE	334 acres	(Harlan County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers. Most harvested fish are 7.25 inches or less. Fish shallow mud flats in spring or summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fingerlings were stocked in 2014. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear. There are several good bank fishing areas. Cranks Creek and Martins Fork Creek where first entering the lake when murky can have good numbers of fish.
Crappie	Fair	White crappie are present. Harvested fish are typically 9 to 10 inches. Occasional large fish up to 12-13 inches. Crappie are scattered in shallow water in spring and congregate in tight groups in standing timber in summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth but low recruitment and low numbers. A good year class of fish spawned in 2010 should improve numbers in coming years and fingerlings were stocked in 2011. Numbers over 15 inches are above average at present for the lake. This lake contains 4 species of black bass that may be caught by anglers (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, and coosa bass). Largemouth bass numbers account for approximately 80% of the black bass in the lake.
Walleye	Poor	The last stocking of Erie strain walleye occurred in 2004. This fishery is currently rebuilding with stockings of native strain walleye in 2013 and 2014.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MAUZY LAKE 81 acres (Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large number of 3-5 inch bluegill, but number of 6-8 inch fish is increasing.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 15-22 inch fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good	Number of 12-16 inch fish have declined over the last couple of years. Still many 18-21 inch bass. A good number of smaller fish in the population should bring up the number of mid-sized fish as they grow into this size range in the next few years. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around hardwood brush piles, especially in spring/early summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Redear sunfish population continues to improve. Number of fish over 8 inches is increasing.
MCNEELY LAKE 51 acres (Jefferson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable-size stocked each year; large fish possible.
Common carp	Fair	A few large fish present.
Crappie	Fair	Quality size fish possible; fish near weed beds and fallen trees, particularly in spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit. Best cover is water willow, fallen trees and stumps.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 9 inches; ≥ 10 -inch fish are present.
Warmouth	Fair	Large fish present around weed beds.
METCALFE COUNTY LAKE 22 acres (Metcalf County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	High numbers overall with good numbers of 6-inch fish; however, few exceed 8 inches.
Blue catfish	Fair	Fair numbers overall, but some trophy-size fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live or cut bait near creek channel. Stocked annually since 2009.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Poor/Fair	Smaller-sized (8-9 inch) on average; better sizes available but not overly abundant.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Not a high density population; however, trophy fish (20-inch plus) potential consistently above average. Try trout colored jerkbaits in May.
Rainbow trout	Fair	600 fish stocked in March for a put and take fishery. Water too warm by mid-May to support trout.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MILL CREEK LAKE 109 acres (Monroe County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.		
Blue catfish	Fair	Stocked annually since 2008 with 550 fish per year.
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8-9 inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus) overall; 18-inch plus fish numbers well above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Lower numbers overall, but large fish (10-inch plus) available.
Spotted bass	Poor/Fair	Fair numbers, but slow growing with few fish exceeding 12 inches.
MILL CREEK LAKE 41 acres (Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park)		
Bluegill	Good	Better numbers recently; high numbers of fish over 6.0 and 8.0 inches. Water is extremely clear and can be difficult to fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Note: Limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Similar numbers to previous years. Holds nice 20.0 inch plus fish, but this lake can be difficult to fish. The timber areas in the upper reaches are the best bet. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Stocked annually. Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking.
NEW KINGFISHER LAKE 21 acres (Daviess County)		
Renovation work was completed during the fall of 2014. The lakes will be allowed to re-fill and re-stocking will begin during the spring of 2015.		
NOLIN RIVER LAKE 5,795 acres (Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties)		
Catfish	Good	<u>Channel catfish</u> - Good number of 15-20 inch fish and many larger. Fish upper lake (Sportsman's Paradise and Cane Run) and river area in early spring and rocky main lake banks mid-May through June. <u>Flathead catfish</u> - lower numbers than channels but several large (30+ lbs) fish harvested annually. Fish late May through June along the steeper rocky banks.
Crappie	Good	Crappie angling should continue to be good at Nolin in 2015. Good number of 10-11 inch fish in the population. During summer months fish deeper brush piles 18-20 feet deep mid lake for larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Decent number of 15-20 inch largemouth in the population. Anglers continue to enjoy a good number of quality bass in 2015.
Walleye	Fair	Most fish 13-16 inches with a few up to 20-21 inches. In early spring, fish Bacon creek and upper river with lead head jigs and plastic grubs. In summer troll Sportsman's Paradise, Conoloway Creek, and the longer main lake points in the Red Rock and Rock Creek areas.
White bass	Excellent	Large number of 13-15 inch white bass in the population. Fish Bacon Creek and upper river during spring spawning run with lead head jigs and plastic grubs or live bait. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Also in summer, fish at night under lights near main channel with jigging spoons or live minnows.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
OHIO RIVER		
Blue catfish	Good	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Look for silt-free, rocky habitat and embayments.
Common carp	Fair	Large fish possible. Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Backwater areas and creek mouths with brushy habitat are best producers.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Sauger	Good	Spring and fall below dams with minnows or jigs on bottom.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low population in mid/upper river in sections of rocky habitat and tailwaters.
Spotted bass	Fair	Fish the main channel around cover.
Striped bass	Fair	Mid-summer to late fall good for 6-10 pound fish.
Walleye	Fair	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Good population.

PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER 1,139 acres (Morgan and Johnson counties)		
Hydrilla is present at Paintsville Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Channel catfish	Fair	Large catfish present in low densities in upper lake. Down-lake large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas.
Crappie	Good	Most of successful fishing is done on the upper end of the lake into Open Fork and Little Paint Creeks; fish sampled up to 15 inches. Late March can often provide good catches of keeper fish in shallow water near Patoker boat ramp. Look for sunny days at this time of year for best fishing. Lower lake will have larger fish often holding at edges of hydrilla beds.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High survival of young fish due in part to presence of hydrilla which offers ample cover. Stable population with high numbers of fish <12 inches; fish sampled up to 24 inches; slow growth rates; number of fish over 15 inches are increasing and tournament weights are improving. March is popular for catches of lunker fish in standing timber.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Good fishing available in shallow water during winter-early spring after February stocking; some fish present in summer at depth of 20-25 feet. The catch and release portion of the tailwater can offer good quality rainbow and brown trout fishing.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Poor recruitment; fish sampled up to 22 inches (lower lake areas seem best for larger fish); 18 inch minimum size implemented in 2005; changes were made in water releases at dam in 2006 to improve summer cool water habitat; spawning benches being placed in lake to aid spawning. Supplemental stockings of native strain fish have occurred from 2009-2012.
Spotted bass	Poor	Numbers are down; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches; best fishing in lower half of lake along main lake shoreline.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Walleye	Fair	Fair numbers through 28 inches; potential for trophy size; look for active fish to be suspended in March; also May and October are good months to fish with live night crawlers on a light jighead fished off the bottom. During summer, drop minnows or nightcrawlers down weedbed edges. Last several year classes are doing well and will provide quite a few keeper fish for 2015.

PAN BOWL LAKE 98 acres (Breathitt County)

Eurasian water milfoil is present in Panbowl Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment. Grass carp were stocked in Panbowl Lake in 2010 to control the Eurasian water milfoil. All grass carp caught in Panbowl Lake must be released immediately.

Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 7.5 inches throughout the lake. Fish early or late in the year when milfoil is not a problem.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fish were stocked in 2014; lots of shoreline areas for bank fishing.
Crappie	Fair	Black and white crappie are present; fish sampled up to 12 inches; most are less than 9 inches; tend to congregate in tight groups in deeper areas of lake.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Numerous fish up to 12 inches. Lower numbers of fish from 13-18 inches and then some fish available from 18-24 inches; lake has heavy fishing pressure and harvest of fish; lake contains a large amount of aquatic vegetation providing cover for large fish. Due to extensive fishing pressure, success for large fish is tough.
Rainbow trout	Good	Lake is stocked in March and October with rainbow trout; anglers do well with bait under floater.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 8.5 inches. May and June are good months to fish around weed beds and near docks.

PENNYRILE LAKE 47 acres (Christian County)

Bluegill	Fair	Some nice bluegill are present as a result of the stunted bass population. Numerous fish less than 6 inches also present.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of catfish 12-15 inches, and a few larger individuals present as well. Fishing around fallen trees and beaver huts with night crawlers or cheese bait should provide success.
Crappie	Poor	Low overall numbers of crappie, but fish are good size.
Largemouth bass	Fair	This lake has a high number of bass 12 inches and smaller. It is a great place to take kids fishing! Bass are protected between 12-15 inches. Harvesting some smaller ones is allowed, and will help the population.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numerous fish in the 7-9 inch range. Few redear present greater than 10 inches. Try fishing a small piece of night crawler under a cork near the bottom for best success.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ROUGH RIVER LAKE and Tailwater 5,100 acres (Breckinridge and Grayson counties)		
Catfish	Good	Good number of 20-25 inch channel catfish with many larger. Lower number of flathead catfish, but trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and steeper rocky banks during mid May-June for spawning fish.
Crappie	Good	Good number of 9-11 inch fish with 12-14 inch fish available. Deeper brush piles in mid-lake hold larger fish during summer.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Good number over 20 inches available. Fish upper lake areas in spring. Troll main lake points in summer or fish jumps in main lake (Dam to Tules Creek on north fork and Dam to Little Clifty Creek on south fork). Fish main lake points and sand/mud flats in fall and winter. Tailwater area good spring fishery (April).
Largemouth bass	Good	The number of 15-20 inch bass remains higher than the last several years. Bass anglers at Rough should continue to enjoy a good number of quality bass for the next few years.
Tailwater*	Closed	Access to the tailwater will be closed for 3-5 years beginning April 2015 due to repair work being performed on the dam.

SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE 135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers of 6-inch plus fish up from last couple of years.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of 12-14 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish. Larger fish up shallow early in the spring then out to thermocline depths by early summer.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish (10-14 inches) available. Fish stakebeds and shallow brushpiles in spring; deeper brush in late winter and summer.

SMOKY VALLEY LAKE 36 acres (Carter County – Carter Caves State Park)		
Bluegill	Fair	Slightly better than last season; most less than 7.0 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Note: Limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	There has been some improvement in the population of largemouth in the lake. There are plenty of chances to catch a good number of fish, but the size is still not there for this population. Note: 12-15 inch protective slot limit; 6 fish daily creel limit, only one over 15 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
SPURLINGTON LAKE 36 acres (Taylor County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Better than average numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus). Big bass (20-inch plus) opportunities above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Lower numbers of fish overall; however, 10-inch plus available.
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE 3,050 acres (Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Catfish	Good	Blue catfish population stable; stocked annually since 2002. Fish with live bait, cut bait or crank baits (open water areas). Fish over 30 inches possible. Many channel catfish of all sizes; look for bigger fish in the timber in spring, head of creeks in fall, and points next to channel any time. Numbers of flathead catfish are increasing.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good number of fish at and above the 9-inch size limit. Black crappie now dominate population. Good spawns of white and black crappie were found in 2013. Note: daily creel limit 15 fish.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Hybrid striped bass numbers increasing, including numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. In spring and fall, there is good fishing in headwaters. Look for jumps early and late in day July-September.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of 12 to 15-inch fish; Good number of 15 to 18-inch fish; best in timber coves; try embayments in spring and fall.
White bass	Fair	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall; many 10-12 inch fish present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
THREE SPRINGS LAKE 30 acres (Warren County)		
Lake is very shallow (no deeper than 6-7 ft)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-8 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers and good size fish (15-inch plus) available. Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish available; few fish larger than 12 inches. Fish trout colored swim baits after stocking dates and in early to mid-May.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November – March) for put and take fishing. Lake too warm for trout by early-mid May.
Redear	Fair	Fair number of 9-10 inch fish available.
WASHBURN LAKE 18 acres (Ohio County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Low number; most fish 6-7 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of fish in the population; many 15-20 inches.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Population dominated by slower growing sub-legal fish. Few fish greater than 12 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low number; most fish in the 7-8 inch range, but some 9-inch fish available.
WEST FORK DRAKES RESERVOIR 88 acres (Simpson County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 8 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-inch plus fish. Few 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Numerous sizes available. Fishing best at night near creek channel.
Largemouth bass	Fair/good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish due to good spawn in 2010.
Muskie	Fair	Fishing best in the lower half of the lake near vegetation beds in winter to early spring. Fishing good below the dam year-round using large inline spinners and jerk baits.
Redear sunfish	Good	Better than average number of 6-inch plus fish.
WOOD CREEK LAKE 672 acres (Laurel County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-7 inch bluegills.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Consistently produces 12-18 inch fish.
Crappie	Fair	Good density of smaller fish with some fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Population has good size range with some fish exceeding 20 inches.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in October and February.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
WOOD CREEK LAKE (continued)		
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate density of 8-inch and larger redear are available. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
Spotted bass	Fair	Most are less than 12 inches. Mid and lower lake areas are best.

YATESVILLE LAKE	2,314 acres	(Lawrence County)
Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year produces good results. To avoid boat access congestion problems at ramps, KDFWR is asking all tournament organizers to utilize KDFWR tournament scheduling website for scheduling tournament at the lake. Also check KDFWR web page for GPS coordinates of submerged fish habitat structures.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution throughout the lake; numerous fish 7.0-7.5 inches.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Quality size distribution and densities of catfish exist in all areas of the lake; recent stockings have greatly increased numbers. During fall to early winter many fish are shallow in upper lake; popular lake for jugging and limb lines.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of 8-15 inch fish. Larger crappie will aggressively go after shad or minnows. Traditional brushy areas and deadfall trees are good for spring spawning fish, with shallow mudflats being good in the fall. This fishery consists only of white crappie.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Good size distribution with fair numbers; rocky shoreline and brush will have better numbers. Good recruitment of young fish in recent years.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution with good numbers of 15-22 inch fish. Supplemental stockings of fingerling bass were conducted in 2009, 2012, and 2013 to aid average recruitment.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Population is increasing; annual stockings of fish from 2010-2013; larger fish up to 10 inches.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Lakes

Largemouth bass

During late winter/early spring, look for suspended schools of fish near primary and secondary points. Once located, try using suspended jerkbaits or Alabama rigs. Vary your twitch speeds with your jerkbait until you've found what the fish seem to prefer for the day. Fishing slower is often better, as fish can be slow to take a lure in cold water.

In spring, fish shallow with a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back, and floating or shallow diving stick baits. Also try black/brown or black/blue ½-ounce jigs with a #11 or #1 pork frog in the yellow mustard flowers in the backs of embayments. Around woody structure use a spinner bait, or plastic lizards in pumpkin or june bug color.

During summer, fish ledges near river channels with Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged soft plastics, and deep-diving crank baits. Also fish stumps on the main lake in the mornings and evenings with topwater baits like the zara spook (current is the key to these main lake stumps being productive). Using a 10 inch plastic worm fished along the ledges during the summer months is also good. A good color is plum.

During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad or blue/chartreuse color crank baits. Use top water baits (zara spook or devils horse) in the flats of embayments on cloudy days or at dawn and dusk. Use white spinnerbaits around main lake stumps.

Weed beds are extremely productive during the late spring, summer and early fall. Top water baits such as zara spooks, stick baits, plastic frogs, and buzz baits are great choices. Plastics such as worms, and spinnerbaits are also good when fishing the edges of the weed beds.

Crappie

In spring, fish shallow and over flats with jigs and minnows. Cork fish around buttonball bushes. During summer, white bass anglers trolling small crankbaits near the river channel and primary points in the lake catch many crappie. During fall, fish jigs and minnows next to deep ledges formed by the river channel. Fish may also be caught suspended on flats adjacent to the secondary channel around 10 feet deep near structure. Fall is also a good time to catch black crappie along gravelly shorelines, fishing with a curly tail jig.

Blue catfish

During the summer, fish along the main river channel with minnows, cut shad/skipjack herring, and stink baits.

Channel catfish

In spring, fish with leeches or night crawlers around rip rap. During summer, fish with cut shad, chicken livers, minnows, leeches, and worms along the main river channel.

Sauger

Troll mainlake bars during the late summer and early fall with wiggle-warts or crankbaits, which bump bottom. During fall and winter, use jigs and minnows along the old river channel, along primary points near the river channel, and where a secondary channel meets the old river channel. A good site for fishing is along the river channel just north of the Paris Landing Bridge (US Highway 79).

White bass

Fish the jumps from July – September with slab spoons or white roostertails.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Tailwaters

Blue and channel catfish	The best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait just off the bottom.
Sauger	Fish ¾-oz or 1-oz jigs with minnows bumping bottom in back eddies and near current. Trolling is also good during the winter and early spring. Best fishing is between December and February.
Striped bass and hybrids	The best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4-inch sassy shad baits with a 1-2 ounce head in pearl or chartreuse color. The amount of weight depends on the current and should allow baits to bump the bottom. Live bait can be caught in the tailwaters using a cast net or a skipjack rod.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass	Bluegill	Redear sunfish	Crappie	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Muskellunge
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Barren River		✓							✓
Barren River Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Beaver Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Benjy Kinman Lake	✓								
Beshear Lake	✓								
Briggs Lake									
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater				✓		✓			
Bullock Pen Lake	✓								
Carpenter Lake									
Carr Creek Lake			✓						
Cave Run Lake	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Cedar Creek Lake	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Chenoa Lake	✓								
Clear Creek Lake				✓	✓				
Corinth Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Cumberland Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Cumberland Tailwater							✓	✓	
Dale Hollow Lake	✓	✓	✓						
Dewey Lake						✓			
Elkhorn Creek	✓	✓							
Elmer Davis Lake	✓				✓				
Fagan Branch Lake					✓				
Fishpond Lake	✓						✓		
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Floyds Fork Creek		✓					✓		
Grayson Lake	✓			✓					
Green River		✓							✓
Green River Lake	✓		✓			✓			✓
Greenbo Lake	✓						✓		
Guist Creek Lake	✓								
Herrington Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky River									✓
Kincaid Lake	✓								
Lake Malone	✓								
Lake Reba	✓			✓					
Lake Wilgreen	✓			✓	✓				
Laurel River Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Linville Lake	✓		✓	✓					
Marion County Lake				✓	✓				
Martin's Fork Lake				✓					
Mauzy Lake	✓								
McNeely Lake				✓	✓				
Metcalfe County Lake	✓			✓					
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)	✓			✓					
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)	✓			✓					
Nolin River Lake	✓						✓		
Ohio River						✓			
Paintsville Lake/tailwater						✓			
Panbowl Lake				✓	✓		✓		
Pennyrile Lake									
Rough River Lake	✓					✓			
Smoky Valley Lake									
Spurlington Lake	✓								
Taylorsville Lake	✓								
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake									
West Fork Drakes Reservoir					✓				
Wood Creek Lake	✓								
Yatesville Lake	✓			✓		✓			

** Additional species can be found on following page.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Striped bass	Hybrid striped bass	White bass	Walleye	Sauger	Channel catfish	Blue catfish	Flathead catfish
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓		✓			✓	✓	
Barren River						✓		
Barren River Lake		✓				✓	✓	✓
Beaver Lake						✓		
Benjy Kinman Lake								
Beshear Lake						✓		
Briggs Lake						✓		
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater						✓		✓
Bullock Pen Lake								
Carpenter Lake						✓		
Carr Creek Lake				✓				
Cave Run Lake						✓		
Cedar Creek Lake								
Chenola Lake								
Clear Creek Lake								
Corinth Lake						✓		
Cumberland Lake	✓			✓		✓		
Cumberland Tailwater			✓					
Dale Hollow Lake								
Dewey Lake						✓	✓	✓
Elkhorn Creek						✓		
Elmer Davis Lake						✓		
Fagan Branch Lake						✓		
Fishpond Lake								
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater		✓				✓		✓
Floyds Fork Creek								
Grayson Lake		✓				✓		✓
Green River	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Green River Lake						✓		
Greenbo Lake						✓		
Guist Creek Lake						✓		
Herrington Lake								✓
Kentucky Lake/tailwater						✓	✓	
Kentucky River			✓		✓			
Kincaid Lake						✓		
Lake Malone						✓		
Lake Reba						✓		
Lake Wilgreen							✓	
Laurel River Lake				✓				
Linville Lake						✓		
Marion County Lake						✓		
Martin's Fork Lake						✓		
Mauzy Lake						✓		
McNeely Lake								
Metcalfe County Lake								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)						✓		
Nolin River Lake			✓			✓		✓
Ohio River		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paintsville Lake/tailwater								
Panbowl Lake						✓		
Pennyrile Lake						✓		
Rough River Lake		✓				✓		
Smoky Valley Lake						✓		
Spurlington Lake						✓		
Taylorsville Lake						✓	✓	
Three Springs Lake						✓		
Washburn Lake						✓		
West Fork Drakes Reservoir						✓		
Wood Creek Lake						✓		
Yatesville Lake						✓		